

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraphs [0010]-[0012] with the following amended paragraphs:

[0010] FIG. 7 is ~~the distractor assembly of FIG. 4 configured with the anchoring devices of FIGS. 5 and 6.~~ a side view of the anchoring device embodiment of FIG. 5.

[0011] FIG. 8 is the distractor assembly of FIG. 4 configured with the anchoring devices of FIGS. 5 and 6.

[0012] FIG. 9 is the distractor assembly of FIG. 4 configured with the anchoring devices of FIGS. 5 and 6.

Please replace paragraph [0031] with the following amended paragraph:

[0031] Referring now to FIGS. 8, 9a, and 9b, in this embodiment, the pivot mechanisms 64, 84 are "C"-shaped which may permit independent displacement of the anchoring devices 60, 80 relative to one another along an axis 901 aligned with the axis of the hollow recess 52. When using an anterior surgical technique, the axis 901 may be an anterior-posterior axis. Referring to FIG. 9b, the "C"- shape of the pivot mechanisms 64, 84 may also permit the anchoring devices 60, 80 to independently pivot or rotate in a sagittal plane about the pins 50. In this embodiment, the connecting portions 62, 82 may be pulled from the hollow recesses 52. As the anchoring devices 60, 80 pivot independently of each other, the connecting portions 62, 82 may be permitted to pivot in and out of the elongated openings 53 of the distracting arms 46.